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time has ended;
determining if a key has been depressed in case the game
time has not yet ended;
determining if the depressed key is a hand out key or a hold
key in case a key had been depressed;
randomly drawing cards not being held in case the hand out
key had been depressed;
holding cards in case the hold key had been depressed;
[actualize] actualizing the intermediate state;
determining if a certain winning combination had been
reached;
randomly drawing again all cards if the certain winning
combination had been reached;
determining again if the game time has ended if the certain
winning combination had not been reached.

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 7 continue to be in the case.

Claims 1 and 3 are being amended.

The Office Action refers to the Drawings.

1. The drawings stand objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description: Reference character " 15 " is shown in figure 1 but not mentioned in the specification. Reference characters " 14 ", " 16 ", " 17 ", " 18 ", " 19 " and " 23 " are shown in figure 2 but not mentioned in the specification.

Correction is required.

Applicant's attorney has contacted the applicant to clarify the situation of these reference numerals. A supplemental response is presently being prepared and is planned to be filed promptly.

The Office Action refers to the Specification.

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive according to the Office Action. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

3. The following title is suggested in the Office Action: Method and Apparatus for Operating a coin actuated Entertainment Automat.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the proposal for a title made by the Examiner and amends the title in this amendment to follow the suggestion made by the Examiner.

4. Content of Specification

(a) Title of the Invention: See 37 CFR 1.72(a). The title of the invention should be placed at the top of the first page of the specification. It should be brief but technically accurate and descriptive, preferably from two to seven words.

The title is presented on the top of page 2 of the present application.

(b) Cross-References to Related Applications: See 37 CFR 1.78 and M.E.P. § 20 1.11.

Applicant respectfully submits that he is not aware of any related applications.

(c) Statement Regarding Federally Sponsored Research and Developing: See M.E.P. § 310.

Applicant respectfully submits that he is not aware of any federal research and development touching the present invention.

(d) Reference to a "Microfiche Appendix": See 37 CFR

1.96(c) and M.E.P § 608.05.

The total number of microfiche and the total number frames should be specified.

Applicant respectfully submits that he is not aware of any microfiche touching the present invention.

(e) Background of the Invention: The specification should set forth the Background of the Invention in two parts:

(1) Field of the Invention: A statement of the field of art to which the invention pertains. This statement may include a paraphrasing of the applicable U.S. patent classification definitions of the subject matter of the claimed invention. This item may also be titled "Technical Field."

(2) Description of the Related Art: A description of the related art known to the applicant and including, if applicable, references to specific related art and problems involved in the prior art which are solved by the applicant's invention. This item may also be titled "Background Art."

The present application provides on page 2 the

following headlines:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention
2. Brief Description of the Background of the Invention
Including Prior Art

Applicant believes that these headlines meet the requirements relating to the content of the specification.

(f) Brief Summary of the Invention: A brief summary or general statement of the invention as set forth in 37 CFR 1.73. The summary is separate and distinct from the abstract and is directed toward the invention rather than the disclosure as a whole. The summary may point out the advantages of the invention or how it solves problems previously existent in the prior art (and preferably indicated in the Background of the Invention). In chemical cases it should point out in general terms the utility of the invention. If possible, the nature and gist of the invention or the inventive concept should be set forth.

Objects of the invention should be treated briefly and only to the extent that they contribute to an understanding of the invention.

The present application provides on page 3 the following headlines:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

1. Purposes of the Invention

The present application provides on page 4 the following headline:

2. Brief Description of the Invention

Applicant believes that these headlines meet the requirements relating to the content of the specification.

(g) Brief Description of the Several Views of the Drawing(s): A reference to and brief description of the Drawing(s) as set forth in 37 CFR 1.74.

The present application provides on page 6 the

following headline:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

Applicant believes that this headline meets the requirements relating to the content of the specification.

(h) Detailed Description of the Invention: A description of the preferred embodiment(s) of the invention as required in 37 CFR 1.71. The description should be as short and specific as is necessary to describe the invention adequately and accurately. Tl- is item may also be titled "Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention." Where elements or groups of elements, compounds, and processes, which are conventional and generally widely known in the field of the invention described and their exact nature or type is not necessary for an understanding and use of the invention by a person skilled in the art, they should not be described in detail. However, where particularly complicated subject matter is involved or where the elements, compounds, or processes may not be commonly or widely known in the field, the specification should refer to another patent or readily available publication which adequately describes the

subject matter.

The present application provides on page 7 the following headline:

DESCRIPTION OF INVENTION AND PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Applicant believes that this headline meets the requirements relating to the content of the specification.

(I) Claim or Claims: See 37 CFR 1.75 and M.E.P. § 608.01(m). The claim or claims must commence on separate sheet. (37 CFR 1.52(b)). Where a claim sets forth a plurality of elements or steps, each element or step of the claim should be separated by a line indentation. There may be plural indentations to further segregate subcombinations or related steps.

The present application provides on page 34 the following language:

What is claimed as new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent is set forth in the appended claims.

Applicant believes that this language meets the requirements relating to the content of the specification.

(j) Abstract of the Disclosure: A brief narrative of the disclosure as a whole in a single paragraph of 250 words or less on a separate sheet following the claims.

An Abstract of the disclosure is attached to the present amendment.

(k) Drawings: See 37 CFR 1.81, 1.83-1.85, and M.E.P. § 608.02.

Applicant provides eight sheets of drawings with Figs. 1 through 8.

(l) Sequence Listing: See 37 CFR 1. 821-1.825.

No sequence listing is part of the present application.

5. This application does not contain an abstract of the disclosure as required by 37 CFR 1.72(b). An abstract on a separate sheet is required.

An abstract of the Disclosure is being submitted.

6. On page 8, reference character "2" refers to a 'symbol display device' on lines 3 and 5.

On the same page, lines 18 and 22, reference character "2" refers to a 'symbol game device'.

Correction/clarification is required.

The statements on page 8, lines 18 and 22, have been amended to provide conformity with the prior designations.

The Office Action refers to Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102.

7. Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Vancura.

According to the Office Action, Vancura discloses Gaming Machines with Bonusing. In his game he teaches the playing of a bonus game in a secondary machine adjacent to a primary machine. Vancura's invention substantially teaches the limitations as claimed.

Vancura teaches according to the Office Action:

Referring to Claim 1, 3 and 7

that the primary machine acts as a traditional slot

machine (col. 18, lines 22-24).

that the primary gaming machine can be a suitable gaming machine, such as, slot, poker, keno etc.; and the accumulating of winnings in an award meter (col. 17, lines 44-54).

Claim 1 requires the step of: "testing the coin in a coin testing device;". No such testing step is part of the Vancura reference.

Claim 1 further requires: "displaying symbols on a symbol display device, wherein a displayed symbol combination comprises several symbols and wherein upon reaching of a predetermined symbol combination or upon reaching of a predetermined credit balance in a credit balance counter disposed on the side of the control unit in the following a symbol combination is displayed with the symbol display device;"

Applicant does not see in the Vancura reference any display of a certain symbol combination when a predetermined symbol combination is shown or when a predetermined credit balance is reached. Thus the teaching of Vancura does not include the requirements set forth in claim 1.

Claim 1 also requires: "controlling the course of

the game with a control unit including a microcomputer and a pseudorandom number generator;". Applicant does not find any teaching in the Vancura reference relating to controlling the course of a game with a pseudorandom number generator. It is urged that this feature of claim 1 clearly distinguishes over the Vancura reference.

In addition claim 1 requires: "substituting a symbol by another randomly determined symbol;". This feature is not seen in the Vancura reference.

The Office Action is then referring to Claim 2 and 8 as follows.

a secondary machine (claim 1);
a bonus qualifying signal, to play a bonus game on the secondary machine, when a predetermined combination of symbols is obtain (col. 18, lines 24-28);
determining the winning values and accumulating winnings in the specific winning machine (claim 1).

Claim 2 of the present application requires:
"simultaneously switching the played entertainment automats (1) into a uniform game mode upon reaching of a predetermined symbol combination or upon reaching of a predetermined credit balance state of a common credit

balance counter;". No such "simultaneously switching the played entertainment automats (1) into a uniform game mode" as required in claim 2 is seen in the Vancura reference. It is believed that this feature of claim 2 clearly distinguishes the present invention from the Vancura reference.

The Office Action then is referring to Claim 4 as follows:

a bonus qualifying event determined after the primary machine is activated (col. 3, lines 18-20 and col.4, lines 55-64).

Claim 4 expressly requires the following step:

"determining if a special symbol combination or a jackpot winning value has been reached after inserting payment into the automatic entertainment automat." It is here clearly required that payment has been inserted into the automatic entertainment automat. Applicants do not see any reference to insertion of payment into the automatic entertainment automat in the Vancura reference neither col. 3, lines 18-20 nor col.4, lines 55-64.

The Office Action is then referring to Claim 5 and 6

as follows:

a secondary machine (claim 1);

the use a processor to facilitate all the functions of the primary (master) and secondary (slave) machines (see figure 50);

a bonus/jackpot (claim 12);

collecting the game results of the secondary machine in the primary machine col. 16, lines 62-67);

that the primary machine can be used as a slot, poker or keno machine (col. 5, lines 14-20)

No figure 50 can be found in the reference Vancura kindly provided by the Examiner.

Claim 5 expressly requires "determining which one of the entertainment automats assumes a master function;". No such operation is recognized from the Vancura reference.

Claim 5 further requires: "determining which one of the entertainment automats assumes a slave function;". No such determination is recognized in the Vancura reference.

Claim 5 further sets forth the following steps: "starting a jackpot game at the entertainment automat performing the slave function;" and "waiting till the slave is ready;". These features of claim 5 appear to be completely absent from the Vancura reference.

As these features are seen absent from the Vancura reference, applicant respectfully submits that claims 5 and 6 are deemed to be patentable over the Vancura reference.

Applicant submits that the prior art made of record neither anticipates nor renders obvious the present invention.

Reconsideration of all outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner should not be able to find a certain element of Applicant's claims in a search of the state of the art and such element is deemed by the Examiner to be necessary for forming a basis for a rejection, then the Examiner is invited to inform the Applicant of such element in order to allow the Applicant to fully meet their disclosure requirement in view of innumerable and hypothetical possibilities of combining references to allege obviousness of individual claims. In particular, in view of different levels of familiarity of inventors with the information disclosure requirements of the United States Patent and Trademark Office developed in recent years and apparently still developing, which disclosure requirements are believed to be unique in the world, any help and


suggestions regarding possible problems seen by the Examiner are welcome.

All claims as presently submitted are deemed to be in form for allowance and an early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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